

CLASSIFICATION ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ SECRET//NOFORN//US OFFICIALS ONLYCOUNTRY Hungary REPORT TOPIC Recruiting and Replacement System in HungaryEVALUATION  25X1 PLACE OBTAINED  25X1 *fld 23*DATE OF CONTENT  25X1DATE OBTAINED  25X1 DATE PREPARED 12 September 1949REFERENCES PAGES 5 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)  25X1REMARKS 1. Recruiting Offices

25X1 a. One recruiting office was located in each Comitate (three recruiting offices were located in BUDAPEST).

25X1 b. The recruiting offices were subordinated to the respective Military District Headquarters. However, the recruiting offices received orders directly from the Administrative Section and the Replacement Section of the Ministry of National Defense especially with regard to matters relating to inductions.

c. The 7th Recruiting Office was located in SZOMBATHELY (P 48/C 78).

d. The personnel of a recruiting office was as follows:

- (1) Commanding officer (a field officer).
- (2) Recruiting officer (a field officer, simultaneously in charge of draft of horses).
- (3) Registration officer.
- (4) Paymaster.
- (5) Clerk (NCO).
- (6) Accountant (NCO).
- (7) One or two registration NCOs.
- (8) Two or three woman typists.

Document No. 2

NO CHANGE in Class.

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2. Draft Procedures

The recruiting and replacement system was based on compulsory military service, according to the "Second Law" of 1939 which, apart from some minor amendments, was still valid in January 1949.

a. All males 21 years of age were registered by communities. The registration lists for each community were submitted to the appropriate recruiting office, which in turn reported the total of persons registered within the respective Comitato to the Ministry of National Defense.

b. The order to proceed with the actual registration for the draft was given by the Administrative Section of the Ministry of National Defense to the Comitato authorities which, in cooperation with the Comitato recruiting office, composed the registration schedule. This work was actually done by the recruiting officer of the recruiting office. The mentioned order was usually issued about three months before the registration date. The registration schedule provided for the examination and classification of 80 to 100 potential draftees per day.

c. One draft board was usually formed in each Comitato. However, several draft boards had to be formed in densely populated Comitatos. Such a board consisted of the chairman (administrative official of the Comitato), the recruiting officer, a civilian official of the Comitato, a military physician, the Comitato physician and several clerks.

d. Each person appearing before the draft board was given a physical examination sheet on which his physical condition, as determined by the medical examiner, was entered. The following classifications were made:

- (1) "Ka" (without deficiencies): Fit for military service without any deficiencies.
- (2) "Ks" (with deficiencies): Fit for military service, but with deficiencies (e.g., persons requiring dental care).
- (3) "Ks": Fit for auxiliary service.
- (4) "Fn": Fit for non-combatant service.
- (5) "Jan": Temporarily unfit.
- (6) "An": Unfit for any military service.

The medical examiners were ordered to classify "Ka" (without deficiencies) only those persons who measure up to the highest standards.

e. The examined persons were finally classified by army representatives as follows:

- (1) "To be inducted": All who were classified "Ka", "Ks" and "Fn".
- (2) "To be deferred": All who were classified "Jan".
- (3) "Not to be inducted": All who were classified "An".

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f. The selection of draftees for the specific branches of service was made by the recruiting officer.

g. In case the military physician and the government physician could not agree on the medical classification, the chairman of the draft board could demand an examination by the Military District physician and a decision by the "Mixed Board of Examiners" which was an institution of the Ministry of National Defense.

h. The final classification was entered in the draft records, and a personal record and a draft card was made out for each draftee. The personal record had been newly introduced into the postwar army. It contained personal data, classification, family status, financial conditions and military career upon which the draftee wanted to enter. The draft card was merely a confirmation that the called person had actually appeared before the draft board.

i. With the exception of those classified "Jan" and "An", all draftees were sworn into the army immediately following the examination procedure. The draftees were notified of the length of service by the following words: "The length of service is two years, according to the law. However, because of the present low personnel strength of the army, you will presumably serve for only 12 to 18 months." Up to the date of information, about 80 percent of the inductees were discharged after completing only twelve months of active service.

j. Following the regular examination by the draft board, the recruiting offices established a list of all draftees who were classified "fit for military service".

k. The recruiting offices held monthly examinations for those who failed to report before the draft board in time and those who had previously been classified "Jan".

### 3. Special Privileges

a. Request for special privileges were decided by the draft board or the recruiting offices. Complaints about this decision could be filed with the Ministry of National Defense.

b. There were three categories of special privileges:

(1) Transfer into the reserve (military service was cut down to three months at the most): e.g., the clergymen, fathers of many children, owners of inherited farms.

(2) Deferment: e.g. for high school and university students who wanted to complete their education.

(3) Exemption from military service: e.g., for members of the state police, post, railroad, etc.

c. The recruiting offices submitted monthly summarized reports on granted privileges to the appropriate Military District Headquarters.

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**4. Induction Procedures:**

- a. The induction was handled by the recruiting offices, according to orders issued by the Military District Headquarters. These orders defined the classes to be inducted, the occupational groups and the number of draftees to be inducted for the individual units.
- b. The recruiting offices issued the notice of induction and forwarded the personal record and an excerpt of the draft records to the unit in which the draftee was to be inducted.
- c. Upon the arrival of the draftee, the unit sent notice of arrival to the appropriate recruiting office and started a service record for the draftee. All changes in the status of a soldier, such as transfers, promotions, etc., were entered in the service record.
- d. Upon completion of military service, the soldier's service record was closed and forwarded to the appropriate recruiting office which, from that time on, carried him in the reserve.

**5. Political Reliability of Inductees:**

Starting in November 1948, great efforts have been made to chiefly induct politically reliable persons, i.e. Communists. For example, the draft records of the SZOMBATHLY recruiting office were examined by a representative of the Military Political Department of the Ministry of National Defense as to the political reliability of draftees. Officers of the 13th and 14th Border Guard Bns also appeared in the SZOMBATHLY recruiting office, having prepared rosters of draftees. The reporting deserter did not know whether or not other recruiting offices applied equally high standards as to political screening. Soldiers who turned out to be politically unreliable were usually discharged after only a few weeks of active service.

**6. Figures concerning the draft examination and induction:**

- a. The reporting deserter remembered the following figures concerning the draft examination and induction of the 1927 class as effected by the SZOMBATHLY recruiting office in 1948:

**(1) Result of physical examination:**

"Ka"	(without deficiencies):	600
"Ka"	(with deficiencies):	300
"Ks"	(fit for auxiliary service)	400
Total:		1,300

**(2) Persons who were granted privileges, such as short-term service, deferment or exemption:**

"Ka"	(without deficiencies):	300
"Ka"	(with deficiencies):	150
"Ks":		100
Total:		550

**(3) Available for induction:**

"Ka"	(without deficiencies):	300
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( "Ka" (without deficiencies): 300 )  
 "Ka" (with deficiencies): 150  
 "Ks": 300  
 Total: 750

## (4) Actually inducted on 3 November 1948:

"Ka" (without deficiencies): 250  
 "Ka" (with deficiencies): 50  
 "Ks": 10  
 Total: 310

The draftees were inducted into the following units:

13th Border Guard Bn: 95  
 14th Border Guard Bn: 95  
 2d Military Hospital, SZOMBATHELY: ?  
 2d Nation Supply Branch-Depot, SZOMBATHELY: ?  
 2d Indep Guard Co, PECB (Y 5/B 22): ?  
 Drivers' School: 20  
 Signal Communications School: 5

c. About 50 percent of the inductees were volunteers, primarily agricultural workers or owners of newly socialized farms who applied for enrollment in the Kocsuth Academy, hoping to improve their living standard.

## 7. Miscellaneous:

a. The recruiting offices had only incomplete records on persons who served during the war. In connection with the census taken on 31 December 1948, the recruiting offices registered all persons of military age (i.e. between 18 and 42 years of age). This registration was to be completed by the end of June 1949.

b. Neither the recruiting offices nor the troop units had made any preparations for mobilization up to 17 January 1949. Soldiers who were discharged upon completion of their active service were no longer carried by their units.

c. The recruiting offices have not been in charge of the registration of horses, vehicles and motor vehicles since World War II.

25X1 Comment:

25X1 Attention  
 is called to the low number of inductees from the area of the SZOMBATHELY recruiting office. Because of its low personnel strength the Hungarian army is at present capable of absorbing only part of the Hungarian manpower potential.

25X1 Importance may be given to the statement that the recruiting offices and troop units had not made any preparations for mobilization up to early January 1949. This fact confirms the hypothesis that the strengthening of the Hungarian army is still in the initial stage.

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